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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 001109

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA AND DRL/IRF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/2029  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [KIRF](#) [KISL](#) [SOCI](#) [EG](#)  
SUBJECT: COURT REJECTS CHRISTIAN CONVERT'S IDENTITY  
DOCUMENT CASE

REF: A. CAIRO 485

- [1B](#). CAIRO 477 C. 08 CAIRO 256 Classified By: Acting Economic-Political Counselor Gregory LoGerfo for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).
- 1.(C) On June 13, Cairo Administrative Court ruled against Christian convert Maher El-Gohary's lawsuit to compel the GOE to issue him an identity card.
  - 2.(C) El-Gohary's attorney, Nabil Ghobreal, told us he made a legal error in not submitting the baptism certificate to the Interior Ministry's records.
  - 3.(C) Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) Executive Director Hossam Bahgat told us EIPR had originally advised El-Gohary not to file a lawsuit to compel the GOE to issue him an identity card.
  - 4.(C) Comment: We attribute this outcome to a combination of the government's interest in appearing as respectful of Islam as the Islamist opposition.